



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - August 29, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, mostly dry weather favors late-summer fieldwork. Recent showers provided limited relief to rangelands and immature, dryland crops, but failed to significantly dent long-term drought.
- ***On the Plains***, widespread showers and thunderstorms from ***Kansas southward into northern Texas*** are coming too late to help many summer crops but benefiting pastures and providing much-needed moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting. A summer-long heat wave has ended on the ***northern High Plains***, although moisture is still needed for the upcoming wheat establishment season.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms extend along a cold front stretching from the ***lower Great Lakes region to the middle Mississippi Valley***, aiding immature corn and soybeans. Farther north, sharply cooler air is overspreading the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, warm, humid, showery weather favors summer crop maturation but causes sporadic fieldwork delays.

Outlook: A strong, slow-moving cold front will generate periods of heavy rain and locally severe thunderstorms across the ***southern Corn Belt and central Plains*** before stalling over the weekend across the ***southern Plains, Ohio Valley, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Trailing the front, below-normal temperatures will provide welcome heat relief to the ***Plains and Corn Belt***. Farther south, only scattered showers are expected across the ***Southeast*** into early next week, although a tropical disturbance may bring locally heavy rain to areas from the ***Delta westward***, where cotton bolls are opening. Farther west, scattered monsoon showers will linger in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for September 3-7 calls for below-normal temperatures from the ***southern Plains to the Appalachians***. Elsewhere, above-normal temperatures will continue in the ***West***. Above-normal rainfall is expected in the ***Desert Southwest*** and in the ***East***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>